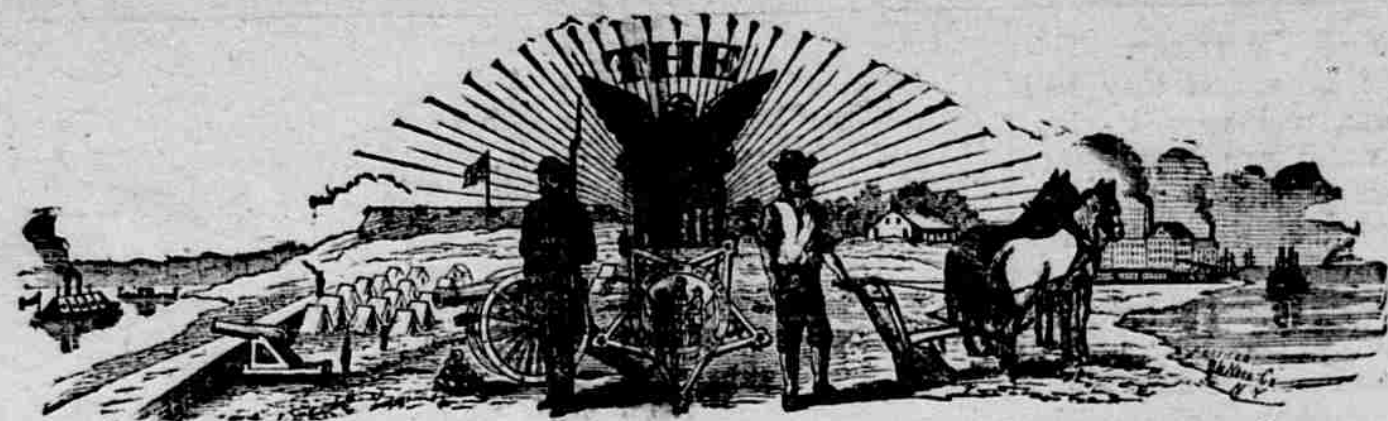


National



"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

Tribune.

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MEMOIRS
of
General
William T. Sherman.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF

GETTING READY FOR THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN.

THE TRICKS OF MEMPHIS SMUGGLERS.

The First Movement Against Vicksburg.

THE DISASTROUS BATTLE OF CHICKASAW BAYOU.

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CHAPTER XII—(continued).

WAS SHOWN this dispatch before it was sent, and afterward the General drew up for me the following letter of instructions, in his own handwriting, which I now possess:

ORDERS FOR VICKSBURG.
HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH CORPS, DEPT. OF THE ARMY, OXFORD, MISS., DEC. 8, 1862.

Maj.-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, Commanding Right Wing, Army in the Field, present.
GENERAL: You will proceed with as little delay as practicable to Memphis, Tenn., taking with you one division of your present command. On your arrival at Memphis you will assume command of all the troops there, and that portion of Gen. Curtis's forces at present east of the Mississippi River, and organize them into brigades and divisions in your own way.

As soon as possible move with them down the river to the vicinity of Vicksburg, and with the co-operation of the gunboat fleet under command of Flag-Officer Porter, proceed to the reduction of that place in such manner as circumstances and your own judgment may dictate.

The amount of rations, forage, land transportation, etc., necessary to take, will be left entirely to yourself.

The Quartermaster in St. Louis will be instructed to send you transportation for 30,000 men. Should you still find yourself deficient, you Quartermaster will be authorized to make up the deficiency from such transports as may come into the port of Memphis.

On arriving in Memphis put yourself in communication with Admiral Porter, and arrange with him for his co-operation.

Inform me at the earliest practicable day of the time when you will embark, and such plans as may then be made. I will hold the forces here in readiness to co-operate with you in such manner as the movements of the enemy may make necessary.

Leave the District of Memphis in command of an efficient officer and with a garrison of four regiments of infantry, the step-guns, and a section of artillery will also be left at Friar's Point or Delta, to protect the stores of the cavalry post that will be left there.

Yours, truly,
U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

I also insert here another letter, dated the 14th instant, sent afterward to me at Memphis, which completes all instructions received by me governing the first movement against Vicksburg:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE, OXFORD, MISS., DEC. 14, 1862.

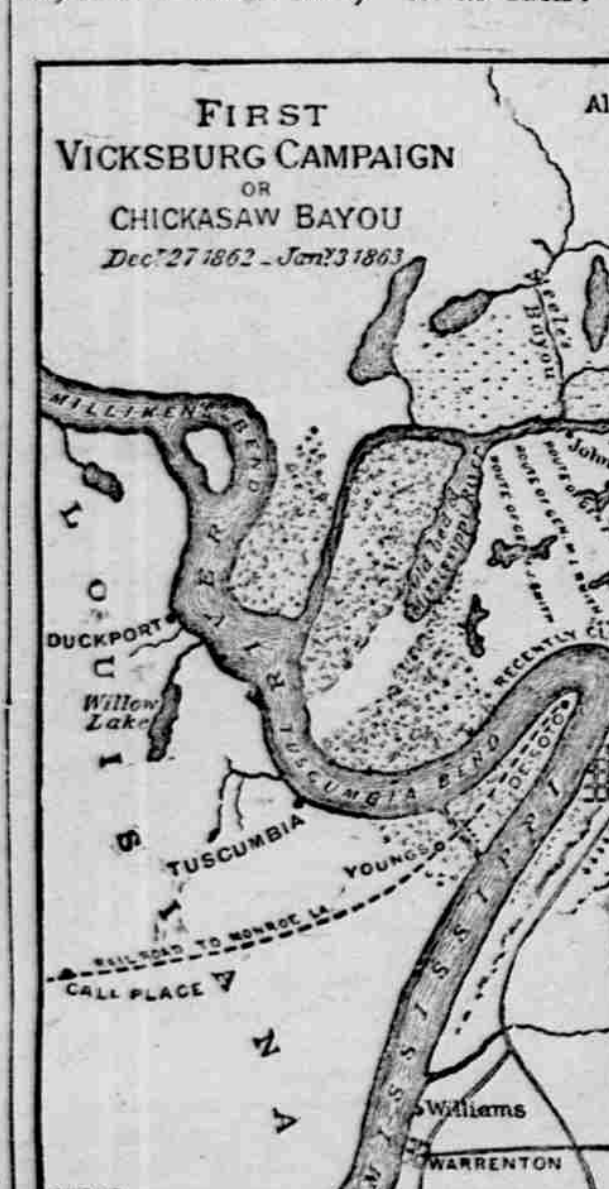
Maj.-Gen. SHERMAN, commanding, etc., Memphis, Tenn.
I have not had one word from Grierson since he left, and am getting uneasy about him. I hope Gen. Grant will give you no difficulty about retaining the troops on this side the river, and Steele to command them. The 21,000 men you have, with the 12,000 from Helena, will make a good force. The enemy are as yet on the Yazoo. I am pushing down on them slowly, but so as to keep up the impression of a continuous move. I feel particularly anxious to have the Helena cavalry on this side of the river; if not now, at least after you start. If Gorman will give you no difficulty where to go and how to communicate with me. My Headquarters will probably be in Coffeeville one week hence. In the meantime I will order transportation, etc. It would be well if you could have two or three small boats suitable for navigating the Yazoo. It may become necessary for me to look to that base for supplies before we get through. * * *

U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

SMUGGLING BY FUNERALS.

When we rode to Oxford from College Hill there happened a little circumstance which seems worthy of record. While Gen. Van Dorn had his Headquarters in Holly Springs, viz., in October, 1862, he was very short of the comforts and luxuries of life, and resorted to every possible device to draw from the abundant supplies in Memphis. He had no difficulty whatever in getting spies into the town for information, but he had trouble

in getting bulky supplies out through our guards, though sometimes I connived at his supplies of cigars, liquors, boots, gloves, etc., for his individual use; but medicine and large supplies of all kinds were confiscated, if attempted to be passed out. As we rode that morning toward Oxford, I observed in a farmer's barnyard a wagon that looked like a city furniture-wagon with springs. We were always short of wagons, so I called the attention of the Quartermaster, Col. J. Condit Smith, saying, "There is a good wagon; go for it." He dropped out of the retinue with an orderly, and after we had ridden a mile or so he overtook us, and I asked him, "What luck?"



MAP OF THE FIRST VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN, OR CHICKASAW BAYOU, DEC. 27, 1862, JAN. 3, 1863.

He answered, "All right; I have secured that wagon, and I also got another," and explained that he had gone to the farmer's house to inquire about the furniture-wagon, when the farmer said it did not belong to him, but to some party in Vicksburg, adding that in his barn was another belonging to the same party. They went to the barn and there found a handsome city hearse, with pall and plumes. The farmer said they had had a big funeral out of Memphis, but when it reached his house the coffin was found to contain a fine assortment of medicines for the use of Van Dorn's army. Thus under the pretense of a first-class funeral they had carried through our guards the very things we had tried to prevent. It was a good trick, but diminished our respect for such pageants afterward.

As soon as I was in possession of Gen. Grant's instructions of Dec. 8, with a further request that I should dispatch Col. Grierson, with his cavalry, across by land to Helena, to notify Gen. Steele of the general plan, I returned to College Hill, selected the division of Brig.-Gen. Morgan L. Smith to return with me to Memphis; started Grierson on his errand to Helena, and ordered Gens. Denver and Lauman to report to Gen. Grant for further orders. Westward back by the most direct route, reached Memphis by noon of Dec. 12, and began immediately the preparations for the Vicksburg movement. There I found two irregular divisions which had arrived at Memphis in my absence, commanded respectively by Brig.-Gen. A. J. Smith and Brig.-Gen. George W. Morgan. These were designated the First and Third Divisions, leaving the Second Division of Morgan L. Smith to retain its original name and number.

I also sent orders, in the name of Gen. Grant, to Gen. Gorman, who meantime had replaced Gen. Steele in command of Helena, in lieu of the troops which had been east of the Mississippi and had returned, to make up a strong division to report to me on my way down. This division was accordingly organized, and was commanded by Brig.-Gen. Frederick Steele, constituting my Fourth Division.

Meantime

A LARGE FLEET OF STEAMBOATS was assembling from St. Louis and Cairo, and Admiral Porter dropped down to Memphis with his whole gunboat fleet, ready to co-operate in the movement. The preparations were necessarily hasty in the extreme, but this was the essence of the whole plan, viz., to reach Vicksburg as it were by surprise, while Gen. Grant held in check Pemberton's army about Grenada, leaving me to contend only with the smaller garrison of Vicksburg and its well-known strong batteries and defenses. On the 19th the Memphis troops were embarked, and steamed down to Helena, where on the 21st Gen. Steele's Division was also embarked, and on the 22d we were all rendezvoused at Friar's Point, in the following order, viz:

Steamer Forest Queen, General Headquarters, and battalion 13th U. S. Inf.
First Division, Brig.-Gen. A. J. Smith—Steamers Des Moines, Headquarters and escort; Metropolitan, 6th Ind.; J. H. Dickey, 23d Wis.; J. C. Snow, 16th Ind.; Hiawatha, 96th Ohio; J. S. Pringle, 67th Ind.; J. W. Cheeseman, 9th Ky.; E. Campbell, 97th Ind.; Duke of Argyle, 7th Ill.; City of Alton, 108th and 48th Ohio; City of Louisiana, Mercantile Battery; Ohio Belle, 17th Ohio battery; Citizen, 63d Ohio; Champion, Commissary boat; Gen. Anderson, Ordnance.

Second Division, Brig.-Gen. M. L. Smith—Steamers Chancellor, Headquarters, and Thielman's cavalry; Planet, 116th Ill.; City of Memphis, Batteries A and B (Missouri artillery), 8th Mo., and section of Parrott guns; Omaha, 57th Ohio; Sioux City, 83d Ind.; Spread Eagle, 127th Ill.; Ed. Walsh, 113th Ill.; Westmoreland, 55th Ill.; Headquarters Fourth Brigade; Sundry South, 54th Ohio; Universe, 6th Mo.; Robert Allen, Commissary boat.
Third Division, Brig.-Gen. G. W. Morgan—Steamers Empress, Division Headquarters; Key West, 118th Ill.; Sam Gaty, 69th Ind.; Northerner, 120th Ohio; Belle Peoria, Headquarters Second Brigade, two companies 49th Ohio, and potatoes; The Vernon, 3d Ky.; War Eagle, 48th Ind., eight companies, and Foster's battery; Henry Von Phul, Headquarters Third Brigade, and eight companies 16th Ohio; Fanny Bellitt, 14th Ind., and Lamphear's battery, 23d Ky.; and 10th Mo.; Deo Moines, 42d Ohio; Pembina, Lamphear's and Stone's batteries; Lady Jackson, Commissary boat.
Fourth Division, Brig.-Gen. Frederick

Steele, was reported to be seriously damaged. This may disconcert him somewhat, but only makes more important our line of operations. At the Yazoo, Gen. Grant may encounter the army of Gen. Pemberton, the same which refused him battle on the line of the Tallahatchie, which was strongly fortified; but, as he will not have time to fortify it, he will hardly stand there, and in that event Gen. Grant will immediately advance down the high ridge between the Big Black and Yazoo, and will expect to meet us on the Yazoo and receive from us the supplies which he needs, and which he knows we carry along. Parts of this general plan are to

CO-OPERATE WITH THE NAVAL SQUADRON in the reduction of Vicksburg; to secure possession of the land lying between the Yazoo



CHICKASAW BAYOU.

and Big Black; and to act in concert with Gen. Grant against Pemberton's forces, supposed to have Jackson, Miss., as a point of concentration. Vicksburg is doubtless very strongly fortified, both against the river and land approaches. Already the gunboats have secured the Yazoo up for 23 miles, to a fort on the Yazoo at Haines's Bluff, giving us a choice for a landing-place at some point up the Yazoo below this fort, or on the island which lies between Vicksburg and the present mouth of the Yazoo. (See map [b, c, d], Johnson's plantation.)

But, before any actual collision with the enemy, I propose, after our whole land-force is rendezvoused at Gains's Landing, Ark., to proceed in order to Milliken's Bend (a), and there dispatch a brigade, without wagons or any incumbrance whatever, to the Vicksburg & Shreveport Railroad (at b and c), to destroy that effectually, and to cut off that fruitful avenue of supply; then to proceed to the mouth of the Yazoo, and, after possessing ourselves of latest and most authentic information from naval officers now there, to land our whole force on the Mississippi side, and then to reach the point where the Vicksburg & Jackson Railroad crosses the Big Black (f), after which to attack Vicksburg by land, while the gunboats assail it by water. It may be necessary, (looking to Grant's approach), before attacking Vicksburg, to reduce the battery at Haines's Bluff first, so as to enable some of the lighter gunboats and transports to ascend the Yazoo and communicate with Gen. Grant. The detailed manner of accomplishing all these results will be communicated in due season, and these general points are only made known at this time, that commanders may study the maps, and also that in the event of non-receipt of orders all may act in perfect concert by following the general movement unless specially detached.

You all now have the same map, so that no mistakes or confusion need result from different names or localities. All possible preparations as to wagons, provisions, axes, and intrenching tools should be made in advance, so that when we do land there will be no want of them. When we begin to act on shore we must do the work quickly and effectually. The gunboats under Admiral Porter will do their full share, and I feel every assurance that the army

WILL NOT FALL SHORT IN ITS WORK.

Division commanders may read this to regimental commanders, and furnish brigade commanders a copy. They should also cause as many copies of the map to be made on the same scale as possible, being very careful in copying the names.

The points marked e and g (Allan's and Mount Albans) are evidently strategic points



GEN. FREDERICK STEELE.

that will figure in our future operations, and these positions should be well studied.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

The Mississippi boats were

ADIRABLY CALCULATED for handling troops, horses, guns, stores, etc., easy of embarkation and disembarkation, and supplies of all kinds were abundant, except fuel. For this we had to rely on wood, but most of the wood-yards, so common on the river before the war, had been exhausted, so that we had to use fence-rails, old dead timber, the logs of houses, etc. Having abundance of men and plenty of axes, each boat could daily procure a supply.

In proceeding down the river one or more of Admiral Porter's gunboats took the lead, others were distributed throughout the column, and some brought up the rear. We maneuvered by divisions and brigades when in motion, and it was a magnificent sight as we thus steamed down the river. What few inhabitants remained at the plantations on the river bank were unfriendly, except the slaves; some few guerrilla parties infested the banks, but did not dare to molest so strong a force as I then commanded.

We reached Milliken's Bend on Christmas day, when I detached one brigade (Burbridge's) of A. J. Smith's Division to the southwest, to break up the railroad leading from Vicksburg toward Shreveport, La. Leaving A. J. Smith's Division there to await the return of Burbridge, the remaining three

divisions proceeded, on the 26th, to the mouth of the Yazoo, and up that river to Johnson's plantation, 13 miles, and there disembarked—Steele's Division above the mouth of Chickasaw Bayou, Morgan's Division near the house of Johnson (which had been burned by the gunboats on a former occasion), and M. L. Smith's just below. A. J. Smith's Division arrived the next night, and disembarked below that of M. L. Smith. The place of our disembarkation was in fact an island, separated from the high bluff known as Walnut Hills, on which



CHICKASAW BAYOU.

the town of Vicksburg stands, by a broad and shallow bayou—evidently an old channel of the Yazoo. On our right was another wide bayou known as Old River; and on the left still another, much narrower, but too deep to be forded, known as

CHICKASAW BAYOU.

All the island was densely wooded except Johnson's plantation, immediately on the bank of the Yazoo, and a series of old cotton fields along Chickasaw Bayou. There was a road from Johnson's plantation directly to Vicksburg, but it crossed numerous bayous



GEN. M. L. SMITH.

and deep swamps by bridges, which had been destroyed; and this road debouched on level ground at the foot of the Vicksburg bluff, opposite strong forts, well prepared and defended by heavy artillery. On this road I directed Gen. A. J. Smith's Division, not so much by way of a direct attack as a diversion and threat.

Morgan was to move to his left, to reach Chickasaw Bayou, and to follow it toward the bluff, about four miles above A. J. Smith. Steele was on Morgan's left, across Chickasaw Bayou, and M. L. Smith on Morgan's right. We met light resistance at all points, but skirmished, on the 27th, up to the main bayou, that separated our position from the bluffs of Vicksburg, which were found to be strong by nature and by art, and seemingly well defended.

On reconnoitering the front in person, during the 27th and 28th, I became satisfied that Gen. A. J. Smith could not cross the intervening obstacles under the heavy fire of the forts immediately in his front, and that the main bayou was impassable, except at two points—one near the head of Chickasaw Bayou, in front of Morgan, and the other about a mile lower down, in front of M. L. Smith's Division.

WOUNDING OF GEN. M. L. SMITH.

During the general reconnoissance of the 28th Gen. Morgan L. Smith received a severe and dangerous wound in his hip, which completely disabled him, and compelled him to go to his steamboat, leaving the command of his division to Brig.-Gen. D. Stuart; but I drew a part of Gen. A. J. Smith's Division, and that General himself, to the point selected for passing the bayou, and committed that special task to his management.

Gen. Steele reported that it was physically impossible to reach the bluffs from his position, so I ordered him to leave but a show of force there, and to return to the west side of Chickasaw Bayou in support of Gen. Morgan's left. He had to counter-march and use the steamboats in the Yazoo to get on the firm ground on our side of the Chickasaw.

[To be continued.]

Her Idea of Happiness.

[Washington Times.]

"Mamma," said little Ethel, the other day, "I ain't going to marry."

"You have time enough to think of that," said her mother, indulgently.

"No, I ain't going to marry," persisted Ethel.

"Are you going to be an old maid?" her mother asked.

"No, I'm going to be a widow, like Aunt Mary, 'cause she always dresses in black, and looks so pretty and happy."

WITHSTOOD THE SIEGE.

Story of Col. George A. Forsyth's

Brave Defense at Arickaree Fork.

HAVEN OF REFUGE.

A Horde of Savage Foes Surround the Soldiers.

ROMAN NOSE FALLS.

Happy Day of Rescue for Suffering Men.

BY A. BAILEY, MANKATO, KAN.

(Continued from last week.)

OWN CAME THE redskins, a solid, unbroke line, encouraging each other with loud yells, until, at a distance of about 400 yards from the camp, the column opened like a fan, and, dividing, the right wing crossed the river and extended its line around the island to the south, while the left, entering the defiles to the north, stretched away until, uniting on the east, a circle was formed, completely hemming in the scouts and effectually closing every avenue of retreat. In the meantime the company had gained the island, tethering the horses as compactly as possible to the bushes there growing.

At this moment Col. Forsyth, looking back, saw one of the pack-mules, Old Black Kettle, as she was called, close to the bank, but showing no disposition to follow farther. As this mule carried valuable supplies, including the Surgeon's medicines and instruments, he called for two volunteers to lead her over; Vilott and Henry Tucker responded. Reaching the north bank, Tucker seized the rope about the mule's neck and turned to lead her, but she braced her feet and stubbornly refused to stir.

Vilott made an attack in the rear, and between the two they soon had her on the way to the island, accelerating her movements at every jump by prodding her with a carbine. The attacking party from the river opened a sharp fire on them, but although the bullets dropped in the sand all about them, and several struck the pack, the return was made in safety, all three gaining the island without a scratch.

By this time, in all directions, lining the hills to the north, emerging from



THE SENTINEL.

the canyons, thickets, and ravines, were seen the savages, some on foot, creeping stealthily from one hiding-place to another; some mounted on their ponies, dashing across the level bottom lands, intent on

INTERCEPTING THE SCOUTS

in what they thought was a hurried retreat; while away on the bluffs here and there could be seen those who duty it was to signal those engaged in the attack. Col. Forsyth ordered each man to construct a rifle-pit for himself as hurriedly as possible, which was quickly done by scooping out the sand to the depth of a foot or two. Three men were stationed so as to keep a careful watch to the south, a like number to the west and north, while the main body operated from near the center. Jack Stillwell was placed at the lowest point on the island.

Permission having been granted by Col. Forsyth, Louis Farley, Tucker, Clark, and Vilott recrossed to the north, taking up a position under the river-bank at a place thought to be secure from the fire of any prowling Indians, and from whence they could operate to good advantage against the enemy in that direction; the immediate danger coming from the Indian marksmen who were fast securing positions from which they could at their leisure pick off the scouts one by one.

But a few minutes elapsed when Clark received a rifle-ball in the ankle, crippling him; a second shot from the same direction struck Farley in the thigh, shattering the bone. Tucker was lying flat

upon his face when a bullet passed between him and the ground; he sprang to his feet, crying out that he was shot through the body, but the next moment discovered that he was unharmed. Vilott was resting upon one knee, when a fourth shot from the same source as the three preceding ones struck him in the leg, severely wounding but not crippling him. These four shots, coming at regular intervals and from the same direction, led Vilott to believe that they were fired by one Indian in hiding.

WATCHING CAREFULLY he saw, partially screened behind a small bush, the movements of an arm as if engaged in raming down a ball; leveling his carbine directly at the center of the screen, he pulled the trigger. At



IN CLOSE QUARTERS.

the report the Indian went down and was seen no more. Farley had received the severest wound, and now called out: "Boys, I shall be dead before night; you may save yourselves by returning to the island. Take my gun with you and keep it; do not let it fall into the hands of the Indians."

This request was refused, Vilott and Tucker reminding him that he might have good use for his rifle before the day closed.

Poor Farley! he had been fatally shot, but remained where he was throughout the day doing wonderful execution with his carbine, killing three Indians, who, in spite of all precautions, had gained a lodgment on the island. After dark that day Clark crawled on his hands and knees across the sand to his companions, while Lyden carried Farley over on his back. Nine days later Farley died and was buried on the island.

But while these four men were battling under the river bank, the fire from the savages had proved most destructive among their companions on the island. Most of the horses had fallen, some remained on their feet, struggling and groaning, even after being pierced by three or four rifle-balls; if a scout showed head or hand it became a target for a half-dozen of the secreted foe. Dr. Moore was lying in his rifle-pit, shot through the head, and slowly dying. Lieut. Beecher had received a mortal wound and was unconscious; several of the command were dangerously wounded; the younger Wilson was lying dead, and Col. Forsyth was suffering terribly, one ball having perforated his ankle and another inflicted a dangerous wound in the thigh.

Vilott and Tucker, believing that their only safety lay in a return to the island, determined to take their chances by

RUNNING THE GANTLET.

Watching for a favorable moment when there came a lull in the firing, Tucker sprang forward across the sands. When about half way over a big Indian behind him, and some distance from the river, set up a derisive yell. Tucker halted for an instant and turned his head to look behind him. A shower of bullets followed, but he escaped, joining his comrades in safety. Vilott remained for a few minutes, firing a shot or two, and then followed Tucker. He too escaped unharmed, the wound in his leg not being of such a nature as to impede his running.

It was now about 11 a. m.; but one horse, Vilott's mare, remained standing, and a few minutes later another ball struck her, and she went down. As she fell, from across the river in plain English came the shout: "There goes their last damned horse!"

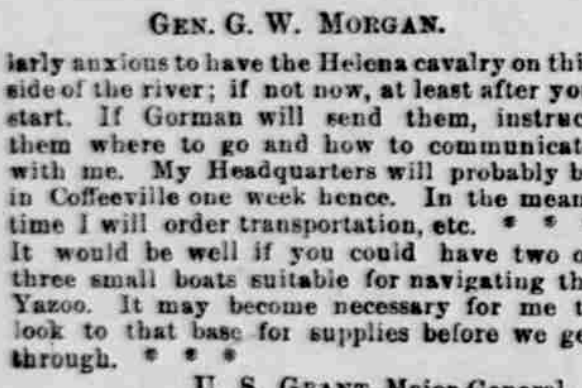
About this time the fire of the enemy slackened, and soon nearly ceased. Col. Forsyth regarded this as ominous, presaging an assault, and gave orders for each man to make preparations for resisting an attack, which he felt would soon be made.

Half an hour elapsed, when from



TAKING AIM.

away off among the bluffs to the north west came the clear notes of a bugle. Here and there mounted Indians were seen in motion, coming over the hills from the north, issuing from the ravines and canyons or speeding across the



GEN. G. W. MORGAN.

larly anxious to have the Helena cavalry on this side of the river; if not now, at least after you start. If Gorman will give you no difficulty where to go and how to communicate with me. My Headquarters will probably be in Coffeeville one week hence. In the meantime I will order transportation, etc. * * *

U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

SMUGGLING BY FUNERALS.

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